

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

OPINION

Upset: Former city Councilman Terry Seuer blasts the Observer in a guest column for an opinion about his work as a consultant./A15

A time of giving: What better time than to participate in the Pick-A-Picket program for the planned playscape in Shiawassee Park?/A20

COMMUNITY LIFE

On the air: NBC national political reporter Andrea Mitchell blasts the news media during the "Voices" program at Adat Shalom./B1

SPORTS

Looking good: For a team still trying to put the pieces together, Farmington Harrison looked pretty darn good in only its second boys' basketball game Tuesday./C1

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Father nabbed in drive-in bust

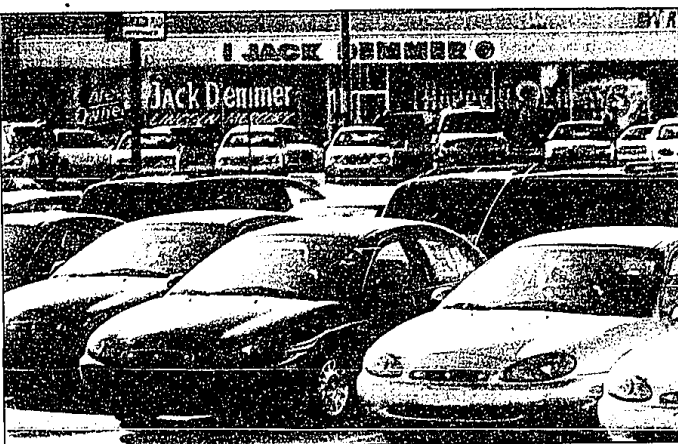
BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Farmington Hills police seized at least 70 grams of marijuana and more than \$16,000 in cash after the department's first-ever drive-in drug bust. A Detroit man, 35, is in custody and is expected to be charged with marijuana possession with intent to deliver after a bizarre encounter with police at the Hills station Dec. 10. "It's not the same thing as a drive through window because you're able to depart," Assistant Chief Chuck Nebus said. Police found the man was carrying marijuana and a large sum of cash after he came into the station to report his son was being abused.

FARMINGTON HILLS

At 4:30 p.m., the driver of a 1990 black Ford T-Bird attracted officers' attention when he pulled up into the station's salty port, which is used to pick up and unload prisoners. A cadet told him to leave the restricted area and park in the front. After reparking his car, the man came into the station with his 3-year-old son to report the boy was being abused by his neighbors in Detroit. When asked if the dad had custody of the boy, the man replied no. Police learned from the boy's mother, who lives in Farmington Hills, that the father forcibly took the child from her earlier. She also told police the father

Please see BUST, A9



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL LESLIER

Temporary: Jack Demmer Lincoln-Mercury will be allowed to park up to 100 new cars in the Uptown Farmington Plaza lot until mid-May. The dealership is looking for a permanent site in Farmington or Farmington Hills.

Temporary car lot allowed

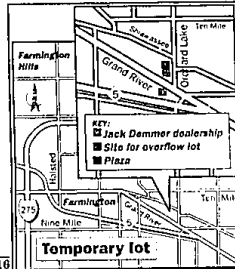


The Farmington Planning Commission gave its blessings to the Demmer dealership to temporarily use additional parking space in Uptown Plaza for overflow new car inventory.

BY TIM SMITH
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It's something Uptown Farmington Plaza patrons will need to get used to between now and May 1999 — rows of stickered Lincolns and Mercurys. But William Demmer, president of the recently purchased Lincoln-Mercury dealership on Grand River in Farmington, told planning com-

missioners Monday night that he just needs a little time — and space — until a new site can be found to park his overflow new car inventory "which is coming in at quite a fast rate right now" from the Ford Motor Co. "I'm looking... for a Band-Aid fix," said Demmer, adding that a new Farmington or Farmington Hills site is being pursued.



Please see LOT, A16

Goodfellows gear up for Saturday delivery



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL LESLIER

Working hard: Bob Schappell, Ron Holland, Bill Liba, Al Freud, Joe Marasco and Bob Ellis pack boxes for delivery.

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
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The holidays will start a bit early for about 100 families in need when the Farmington Area Goodfellows deliver their annual trove of foods and gifts Saturday morning. "We're in good shape," said Dick Tupper, Goodfellows general chairman for the effort. "That's primarily because the number of families is down from the year before when we had about 140 families. The economy is good." Neighborhood House provided the names of families who may be in need during the holidays. Toys, food, household and personal items, clothing and gift certificates came into the Goodfellows from many sources. These include the city of Farmington employees, donations from individuals, food from students in the Farmington Public Schools, such as Hillside Elementary, whose students conducted a

successful household and personal needs drive. Also contributing were Girl Scout troops, a number of civic organizations, including the Exchange Club and Rotary, as well as businesses such as Old Navy in Novi, Kmart, Target and Farmer Jack, as well as the Indian Guides, who had a coat drive for toddlers to adults. Most of the churches in the area provided food, gifts, clothing and toys. Other contributors included the Farmington Area Community Women, North Farmington Honors Society and Bob Sellers. Another boon to the Goodfellow effort this year was the donation of the use of the former antiques store (also former bowling alley) on Grand River Paul Goodman, manager of Benchmark Outfitters. And that's not to mention all of the volunteers who spent hours packing

Please see GOODFELLOWS, A11

Old seats not good seats

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Ironically, a child restraint seat unearthed from a garbage heap looked the best of the bunch inspectors deemed unsafe. When it comes to child restraint seats, looks aren't everything. Neither is price, said an Oakland County Health Department official who inspects car seats. A seat can range \$30-\$250. "They all have to adhere to the same safety standards," said Sue Elssesser, county public health educator. "You pay more for bells and whistles than you do for safety."

CHILD RESTRAINTS

To call attention to the growing concerns over the safety of child carriers, Farmington Hills firefighters used the jaws of Life to destroy 17-18 seats Elssesser found unfit under a new county examination program. Also, a Farmington Hills-based auto dealership is expected to host a one-day inspection through Metro Safe Kids in February. Elssesser also conducts inspec-

Please see SEATS, A9

Too pretty to open

Tips that can help you get holiday gifts under wraps

BY RENÉE SKOGLIND
STAFF WRITER

If you're all thumbs and no imagination when it comes to wrapping holiday gifts, have we got some suggestions for you. With just a bit more than scissors and a roll of tape, you can transform a dad and must have wrapped "it" gift into a "Dad, who wrapped this for you?" masterpiece. Hold your reindeer, guys. We're not saying all of you can't wrap. Women are known to sprout a fistful of thumbs when it comes to wrapping presents as well. Our tips come from some of the finest wrappers in the area, from 13-year-old Kathy McQueen who suggests putting jewelry in a burger box, to Mary Lynn Giovan, a high school art teacher who

wraps her gifts in beautiful fabric remnants and ties them with tulle and lace. And then there's Martha Stewart, the world's quintessential expert on good taste, who suggests choosing two or three hues and using only shades in those colors for your papers and ribbons for a "stunning" effect beneath your tree. Don't let Martha intimidate you. Here's the best red-ribbon gift-wrapping suggestions this side of the North Pole: ■ Brown paper is not just for mailing packages. Decorate it with gold star stickers and gold wired ribbon. Tie it with braided twine or raffia and add

Please see TIPS, A16



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HERNIMANN

Pretty patterns: Tanja Von Kulajta, owner of RSVP gift shop, sells handmade and specialty wrapping paper and colorful ribbons.

OK, so you're not Martha Stewart when it comes to wrapping holiday gifts in spite of our great ideas. But if you can cut and tape, there's hope.

RSVP, a small gift shop in Plymouth, is a treasure trove of fine papers and ribbons. Owner Tanja Von Kulajta will not do your wrapping, but she'll help coordinate your selections and choose decorations. RSVP carries 10 designs of motif papers made in England at \$1.95 a sheet and several hand-made papers with visible wood and flower fragments at \$2.25-\$4.75 a

Please see WRAP, A5

